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Letter dated 7 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you may be aware, an illegitimate decision of the Crimean Parliament to hold a referendum on 16 March 2014 on the issue of "reuniting Crimea with the Russian Federation" was taken recently.

According to findings of Astrid Thors, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe High Commissioner on National Minorities, contained in her statement on the alarming situation in Crimea and the effects this could have on all communities of the peninsula, particularly the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar groups (see www.osce.org/hcnm/116180), rash decisions on the future status of Crimea are a major source of tension and expose divisions between the peninsula's communities. Like the Ukrainian community, Crimean Tatars have taken a different position to the majority population, which increases their vulnerability. Relations between ethnic groups on the peninsula are characterized by a growing climate of fear.

In this regard, I wish to refer to a statement of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People with regard to the announcement of a Crimean referendum by the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea calling upon all residents of Crimea to boycott every stage of preparation for the referendum of 16 March (see annex).

It is my strong belief that the statement attached hereto is another evidence of the illegitimacy of the referendum in Crimea planned by the separatists.

I would be most grateful if you could circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people with regard to the announcement of a Crimean referendum by the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

6 March 2014

In conditions of the severest political crisis caused by bringing Russian troops into Crimea, the Verkhovna Rada of Crimea called the urgent special session without informing the deputies of the opposition about the place and time of the session to adopt the decision "On holding a Crimean referendum".

The Crimean referendum will be held on 16 March 2014.

The analysis of this decision testifies not only to its legal nihility, but also to the crying disregard of the rights and interests of Crimean residents. Thus, item 1 in fact proclaims "inclusion of Crimea to the Russian Federation as a subordinate entity of the Russian Federation"; however, at this the next item announces that the referendum will be held on 16 March 2014.

Making these irresponsible actions part of the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea not only violated the law of Ukraine, but demonstrated their cynical attitude to the multinational population of Crimea.

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People considers the adoption of this decision by the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea not only as criminal and contradicting the interests of the overwhelming majority of the multinational population of Crimea, but also as deliberately provocative action, aimed at a further escalation of the tension in Crimea and around it.

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People states that along with the gross disregard of the rights and interests of the multinational Crimean population, which is called to take part in the illegal referendum that has its result announced in advance, the rights of the Crimean Tatar people, who have no other historical homeland outside Crimea, were especially violated.

The Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People calls upon all residents of the autonomy to boycott every stage of preparation for the referendum:

- Do not enter the district and territorial election committees
- Do not take part in making a list of voters or agree to enter the list of voters
- Demand one's exclusion from such lists in case of inclusion into the lists of voters
- Do not come to the polling stations on voting day or invite the members of the election committees to vote at home

At the same time, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People calls upon the Crimean residents belonging to various nationalities to stay calm and avoid any attempts at provocation.

Peace and consent in our multinational Crimean society is our most efficient influence to those who brought chaos and fear for the future of our children, relatives and friends to our home.

The peaceful future of Crimea is in our hands!

(*Signed*) Refat **Chubarov**
Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People